

REMARKS

Claim 1, 6, 7, and 8 have been amended. Claims 3 and 9 have been cancelled.. Thus, Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 remain pending in the application.

Drawings

Replacement sheets and marked up replacement sheets are submitted to overcome the objection to the drawings.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner objected to improper dependencies of certain claims. Applicant amended claim 6 and 8 to include the proper dependencies as requested by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kanai in view of Southard. However, the Examiner indicated that claims 3 and 9 would be allowable if presented in independent form. Applicant amended claims 1 and 7 to include the limitations of former claims 3 and 9, respectively. Thus, Applicant believes that all pending claims are now allowable.

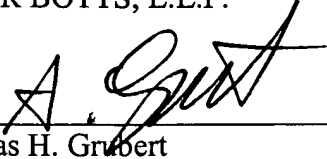
SUMMARY

In light of the above remarks and amendments, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested. It is further submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and early notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions, comments or suggestions in furtherance of the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the agent of record by telephone or facsimile.

Applicants do not believe that any other fees are due at this time; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Deposit Account No. 02-0383, (*formerly Baker & Botts, L.L.P.*), Order Number 071308.0160

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Date: November 2, 2004

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Expires: June 30, 2005

Harry I. Moatz
Director of Enrollment and Discipline



FIG 1

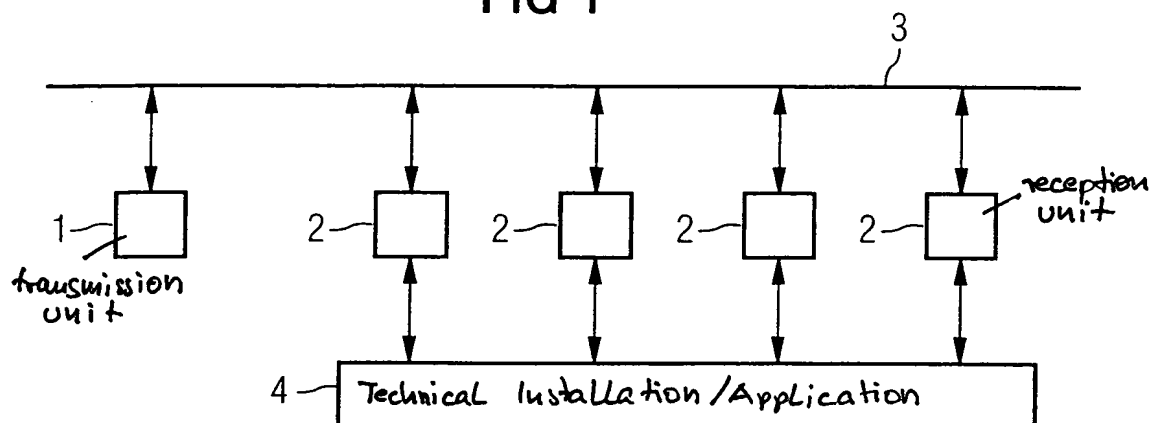


FIG 2

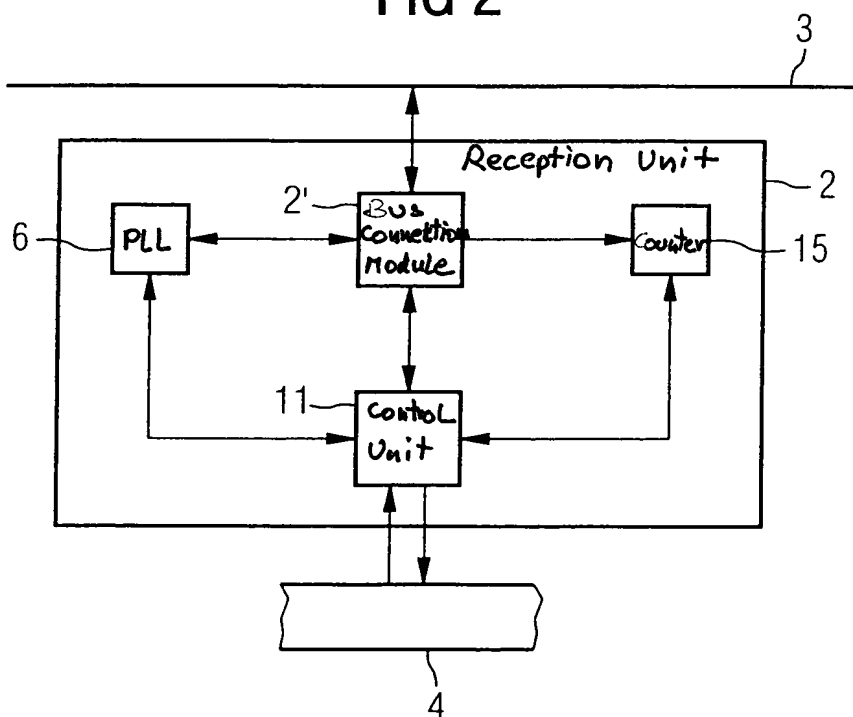




FIG 3

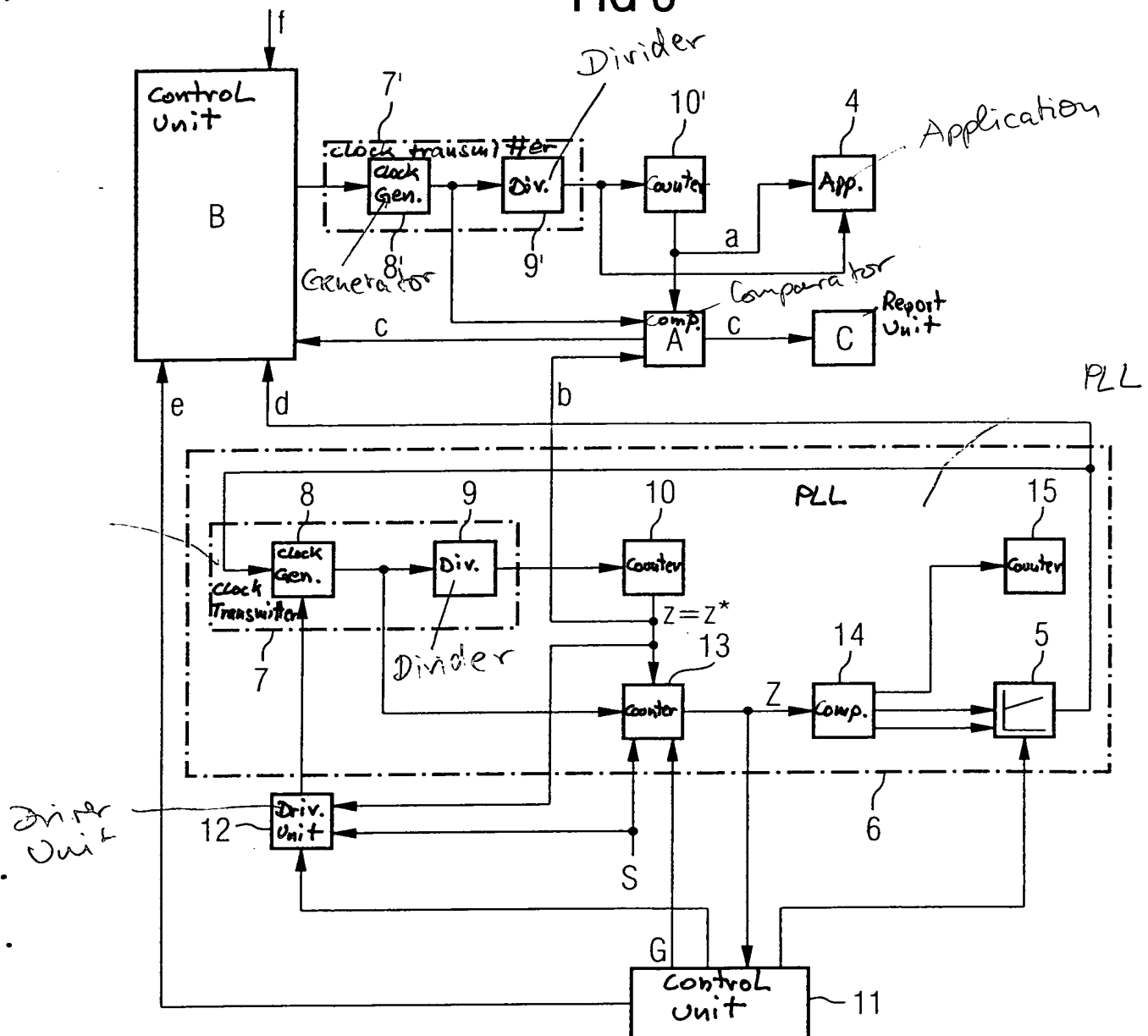




FIG 4

